

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 07257 180716Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2161

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 7257

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CB

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRESIDENT LON NOL

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE SIDNEY H. SCHANBERG NEW
YORK TIMES STORY REFERRING TO CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRESIDENT LON NOL AND SPECULATING
CONCERNING ALLEGED PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON ON LON NOL
TO DEPART FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT TO THE UNITED
STATES.

2. WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT A PRINCIPAL SOURCE
OF THIS STORY IS FORMER CHIEF OF STATE AND MEMBER
OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL CHENG HENG, WHO
INVITED SEVERAL NEWSMEN TO HIS HOME THE OTHER DAY
FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE. AS YOU ARE AWARE, CHENG HENG
IS BITTERLY ANTI-LON NOL AND HAS BEEN EXERTING PRESSURES
EVERYWHERE FOR HIS EARLY DEPARTURE. WE VIEW HIS DISCLOSURE
CONCERNING THE PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE AS ANOTHER
MANIFESTATION OF THAT PRESSURE.
SWANK

SECRET

NNN

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